

# Christmas Eve

December 24, 2024 | 5:00 p.m.

Prelude.....“O Come All Ye Faithful”.....Linda Morey  
Opening Hymn.....“O Come All Ye Faithful”  
Welcome & Invocation.....Jim Loeffler  
Old Testament Reading (Isaiah 9:2-7).....Kevin May  
Christmas Hymn.....“Angels We Have Heard On High”  
Psalm 96:1-3.....Jill Shaffer  
Christmas Hymn.....“It Came Upon A Midnight Clear”  
Psalm 96:11-13.....Jill Shaffer  
Christmas Choir.....“A Silent Holy Night”.....(viola – Jonathan Shaffstall)  
Lighting the Advent Wreath.....Sarah and Lilly Troupe  
Prayer.....Sue Fuller  
Kids’ Talk.....Adrienne Morton  
Hymn.....“The First Noel”.....Linda Morey  
Christmas Offertory/Offering  
Doxology/Blessing of Gifts  
New Testament Reading (Luke 2:1-20)  
Message *The Shepherds Returned Glorifying God!*  
Sharing the Light of Christ  
Responding To God’s Love.....“Silent Night”.....Linda Morey  
Benediction/Blessing  
Christmas Postlude

# Advent Wreath

## Reader One:

Beloved, today we welcome the Christ Child, the fulfillment of our joy, as we proclaim with the prophet Isaiah, “For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6).

## Congregation:

*Christ our joy has come near. Emmanuel, God with us, has come to dwell with us as a tiny baby. “His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The seal of the Lord of hosts will do this” (Isaiah 9:7).*

## Reader Two:

We light this candle as a sign of Christ coming to dwell with us, to live in the neighborhood of vulnerable humanity as a vulnerable child. May the light of Christ warm our hearts and light our way as we share the joy of God’s salvation wherever we go.

*Light the center candle of the wreath.*



*Thank you for sharing in this Christmas Eve  
with your friends and family from  
South Harborcreek United Methodist Church.  
We wish everyone a very happy and joyous  
Christmas with peace and love to all!*

# Luke 2:1-20

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. <sup>2</sup>(This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup> And everyone went to their own town to register.

<sup>4</sup> So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. <sup>5</sup> He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

<sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, <sup>7</sup> and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a **manger**, because there was no guest room available for them.

<sup>8</sup> And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup> An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, ***“Do not be afraid. I bring you GOOD NEWS that will cause GREAT JOY for ALL THE PEOPLE.***

<sup>11</sup> *Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.* <sup>12</sup> *This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.”*

<sup>13</sup> Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup> ***“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”***

<sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ***“Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”***

<sup>16</sup> So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who ***was lying in the manger.*** <sup>17</sup> When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. <sup>19</sup> But ***Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.*** <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.